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June 19, 2017

JR De La Rosa
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Draft 2017 Safeguarding California Plan

Dear Mr. De La Rosa,

The East Bay Regional Park District (Park District) stewards of over 120,000 acres of wildlands and 55 miles of shorelines located in the East San Francisco Bay—one of the most urbanized regions of California—as both a landowner and land manager. The Park District is well-positioned to partner with the State to adapt to a changing climate and provide critical natural infrastructure that builds resilience of both communities and ecosystems. On behalf of the seven elected members of the Park District’s Board of Directors, we wish to officially comment on the Draft 2017 Safeguarding California Plan.

The Park District is interested in working closely with State agencies to manage our 79,000 acres of grazing lands as well as our forest and wetlands to maximize carbon storage. State agencies should partner with special districts such as the Park District on research projects covering sea level rise and carbon storage on these natural and working lands as both a mitigation and adaptation strategy. The Park District looks forward to using the final California Forest Carbon Plan to help guide the management of our forests as well as working together on other adaptation processes so that we are aligning to lead on climate action and making policy decisions based on the best available science, or evidence-based decision-making.

Specifically, in terms of water resources and reducing Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta climate change vulnerability, the Park District would like to work with State agencies to restore important natural infrastructure located within the Delta and eastern Contra Costa County. We would also like to learn more about the carbon management practices in the Delta and increasing carbon storage through wetlands by using the California Wetland Carbon voluntary protocol that allows those carbon savings to be sold in markets.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2017 Safeguarding California Plan. We look forward to continuing to partner and leverage support with you. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Sandra Hamlat
Senior Planner

Board of Directors

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